

# AMENDMENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/998,613  
Confirmation No. : 4910  
Inventor(s) : Davies et al., et al.

I, Perry Hoffman, hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the Commissioner for Patents, ATTN: Examiner Alam, Shahid Al, on the date indicated below.

Filed : November 30, 2001  
Title : VIRTUAL PRIVATE SUPPLY  
CHAIN

Signature: /perry hoffman/

Date of Signature: November 30, 2008

TC/A.U. : 2162  
Examiner : Alam, Shahid Al

Docket No. : 21-019 ITW 20557

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO RCE

Mail Stop AMENDMENTS  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

[X] AUTHORIZATION TO PAY AND PETITION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NECESSARY FEES: If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following Communication (including but not limited to the payment of any required Extension of time fees under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or 1.17, or issue fees), they may be paid out of our deposit account No. 50-3286. If this payment also requires a Petition, please construe this authorization to pay as the necessary Petition which is required to accompany the payment.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to the instant RCE, please enter the following Amendments and Remarks in the above-referenced application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.

Please amend the application as follows: